

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of remanufacturing a process cartridge detachably attachable to an image forming apparatus main body, the process cartridge including:

5       a photosensitive member unit having an electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which an electrostatic latent image is formed;

          a developing unit having: a developer container for containing a developer for developing the  
10       electrostatic latent image; and a developing roller for carrying the developer;

          a first coupling frame for coupling one end side of the photosensitive member unit and one end side of the developing unit to each other; and

15       a second coupling frame for coupling the other end side of the photosensitive member unit and the other end side of the developing unit, which are opposite sides of the one end sides, to each other,

          said method comprising:

20       (a) a frame separating step for separating the first coupling frame from the developing unit and from the photosensitive member unit;

          (b) a photosensitive member unit separating step for, after said frame separating step,  
25       separating the photosensitive member unit by deforming the second coupling frame in a state where the second coupling frame and the developing unit are

fixed to each other;

(c) a photosensitive drum detaching step for,  
after said photosensitive member unit separating step,  
detaching the electrophotographic photosensitive drum  
5 from the photosensitive member unit;

(d) a photosensitive drum attaching step for,  
after said photosensitive drum detaching step,  
attaching one of the electrophotographic  
photosensitive drum and a new photosensitive drum;

10 (e) a photosensitive member unit engaging step  
for engaging the photosensitive member unit with the  
second coupling frame that is fixed to the developing  
unit; and

(f) a frame engaging step for engaging the  
15 first coupling frame with respective end portions of  
the developing unit and the photosensitive member  
unit.

2. A method of remanufacturing a process  
20 cartridge detachably attachable to an image forming  
apparatus main body, the process cartridge including:

a photosensitive member unit having an  
electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which an  
electrostatic latent image is formed;

25 a developing unit having: a developer container  
for containing a developer for developing the  
electrostatic latent image; and a developing roller

for carrying the developer;

a first coupling frame for coupling one end side of the photosensitive member unit and one end side of the developing unit to each other; and

5 a second coupling frame for coupling the other end side of the photosensitive member unit and the other end side of the developing unit, which are opposite sides of the one end sides, to each other,

the developing unit and the second  
10 coupling frame being fixed to each other with an injected molten resin,

the photosensitive member unit and the second coupling frame being fastened to each other with a fastening member,

15 said method comprising:

(a) a frame separating step for separating the first coupling frame from the developing unit and the photosensitive member unit;

(b) a fastening releasing step for releasing  
20 fastening of the photosensitive member unit to the second coupling frame;

(c) a photosensitive member unit separating step for, after said fastening releasing step, separating the developing unit and the photosensitive  
25 member unit from each other by deforming the second coupling frame in a state where the developing unit and the second coupling frame are fixed to each

other;

(d) a photosensitive drum detaching step for,  
after said photosensitive member unit separating step,  
detaching the electrophotographic photosensitive drum  
5 from the photosensitive member unit;

(e) a photosensitive drum attaching step for,  
after said photosensitive drum detaching step,  
attaching one of the electrophotographic  
photosensitive drum and a new photosensitive drum;

10 (f) a photosensitive member unit engaging step  
for engaging the photosensitive member unit with the  
second coupling frame that is fixed to the developing  
unit; and

(g) a frame engaging step for engaging the  
15 first coupling frame with respective end portions of  
the developing unit and the photosensitive member  
unit.

3. A method of remanufacturing a process  
20 cartridge detachably attachable to an image forming  
apparatus main body, the process cartridge including:

a photosensitive member unit having an  
electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which an  
electrostatic latent image is formed;

25 a developing unit having: a developer container  
for containing a developer for developing the  
electrostatic latent image; and a developing roller

for carrying the developer;

a first coupling frame for coupling one end side of the photosensitive member unit and one end side of the developing unit to each other; and

5 a second coupling frame for coupling the other end side of the photosensitive member unit and the other end side of the developing unit, which are opposite sides of the one end sides, to each other,

the photosensitive member unit and the  
10 second coupling frame being fixed to each other with an injected molten resin,

the developing unit and the second coupling frame being fastened to each other with a fastening member,

15 said method comprising:

(a) a frame separating step for separating the first coupling frame from the photosensitive member unit and from the developing unit;

(b) a fastening releasing step for releasing  
20 fastening of the second coupling frame to the developing unit;

(c) a developing unit separating step for, after said fastening releasing step, separating the photosensitive member unit and the developing unit  
25 from each other by deforming the second coupling frame in a state where the photosensitive member unit and the second coupling frame are fixed to each

other;

(d) a photosensitive drum detaching step for,  
after said developing unit separating step, detaching  
the electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the  
5 photosensitive member unit;

(e) a photosensitive drum attaching step for,  
after said photosensitive drum detaching step,  
attaching one of the electrophotographic  
photosensitive drum and a new photosensitive drum;

10 (f) a developing unit engaging step for  
engaging the developing unit with the second coupling  
frame that is fixed to the photosensitive member  
unit; and

(g) a frame engaging step for engaging the  
15 first coupling frame with respective end portions of  
the photosensitive member unit and the developing  
unit.

4. A method of remanufacturing a process  
20 cartridge according to any one of claim 1, 2, or 3,  
further comprising a developer refilling step for,  
before said photosensitive member unit engaging step,  
refilling the developer container with the developer  
from a developer supplying opening exposed by  
25 detaching the developing roller from the developing  
unit.

5. A method of remanufacturing a process cartridge according to any one of claim 1, 2, or 3, further comprising a developer refilling step for, before said frame engaging step, refilling the  
5 developer container with the developer from a developer filling port that is provided to the developer container for filling of a developer.